

REMARKS

Claim 3 is the sole claim presented for consideration.

Initially, the title has been changed to better reflect the claimed invention, and editorial changes to the abstract have been made. In addition, Claim 3 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheets of Drawings, with Figures 5A to 5C and 8A to 8C labelled as --PRIOR ART-- as required by the Examiner. Approval of the Replacement Sheets is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohmori '384. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to an information recording/reproducing device that uses a disc cartridge and includes a turntable for rotating a recording medium, an optical pickup that emits a light beam, and a mechanism for moving the optical pickup in an in-plane direction of the recording medium. Claim 3 has been amended to include an objective lens that is retracted into a position opposite to a thin bridge part of the disc cartridge in a case where the recording medium is to be removed from the turntable together with the disc cartridge.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 3A through 3C and on page 11, line 8, *et. seq.*, of the specification. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance information recording/reproducing device can be provided.

The Ohmori patent relates to a disk cartridge that includes a housing, a thin bridge part over an aperture, and a shutter for opening and closing the aperture. Ohmori also includes a turntable B, an optical pick-up device C, and a mechanism 42 for moving the optical pick-up device. The Office Action asserts that when the recording medium is to be removed from the turntable, the optical pick-up device is retracted into a position opposite to the thin bridge part of the disk cartridge.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Ohmori does not teach or suggest, among other features, providing an objective lens that is retracted into a position opposite to the thin bridge part of the disk cartridge when the recording medium is removed from the turntable together with the disk cartridge. Ohmori shows, in Figure 11, an objective lens 12. The objective lens is secured on a lens holder 47 which, in turn, is provided on a carriage 37 of the optical pick-up device. As understood, however, the objective lens 12 in Ohmori is not retracted in the manner set forth in Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that Ohmori fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 3, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 3 is patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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